

THE JAGUAR JOURNAL

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MIDDLE OF TRIMESTER 1

OCTOBER 2020

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATES STUDENTS THROUGH FAITH FORMATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUE TO BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE ST. JOSEPH AWARD!

GRACE SCHULTZ - 6TH GRADE
REILLY HOERDT - 7TH GRADE
MAGGIE KOCOUREK - 8TH GRADE



The Middle School St. Joseph Award is presented to a middle school student in each grade level throughout the school year. Middle School teachers offer this in recognition for following the example given by St. Joseph of living a faith-filled life and being a hard worker.

We are so happy to be back in school working with your students! We ask for your continued support in following the COVID protocols put into place that have allowed us to continue with full time in-person learning. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher with any questions or concerns.

WEBSITES TO NOTE:

educate.tads.com/educate
(Online Grading System)

stjosephwsp.org/msstudents
(Online Middle School Calendar)

stjosephwsp.org
(School Website)

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RELIGION MR. BUTLER

The 6th graders and I will tour salvation history by studying the Scripture and a book by Fr. Rich Veras called The Word Made Flesh. We began at the beginning with the creation accounts and will continue through the adventures of the Chosen people. We will then look at the life of Christ Himself and finish with the the Church.

The 7th graders have been catching up on the latter parts of salvation history leading up to Christ. We will then take a closer look at the life of Christ Himself using Scripture, and Marigold Hunt's book A Life of Our Lord. In the spring we'll study the Sacraments, as well as read The Hobbit with Mr. Schultz.

The 8th graders are studying the history of the Church beginning with the early Christians. They are reading the Acts of the Apostles and another book by Marigold Hunt titled The First Christians to look at the ages of the Church leading to our very age. We'll also read C.S. Lewis', The Great Divorce in order to understand the Church's vision of our life purpose and destiny as human persons.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS MRS. BRUCE

Welcome to another year of Communications Skills! It is so good to see everyone again and we have had a great start:

8th Grade just completed a difficult unit on verbs and will be working on a reflective piece of writing. This is in preparation for any high school admission essays as well as a reflective paper required for Confirmation. They will then take a look at pronouns.

7th Grade recently completed a unit on nouns and is working on a persuasive writing piece. This requires them to take a stand on a topic and back their reasons with research based claims. They will then move onto verbs.

6th Grade also recently completed a unit on nouns and will begin working on writing a five paragraph essay. This is in preparation for the Biography Fair paper they will write later this winter. They will also then move onto verbs.

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MATH MS. MUELLERLELIE

Welcome to another exciting year of math!

6th grade has been working hard on learning about positive and negative numbers, as well as multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals. We will soon start a unit on ratios and proportions, which they have been learning about in Art!

7th grade students have been hard at work on rational number operations. Next week we will begin some of the fun pre-algebra concepts of working with expressions and solving equations.

In Algebra students have been competing in a group challenge on solving equations. We will continue to learn about equations, and then apply those skills to solving problems with ratios, percents and proportions.

The 8th grade Algebra/Geometry class is finishing up work with simplifying radicals before moving on to our Geometry curriculum. We will be starting with the basics of geometry before learning about proofs.

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY MS. ROETTGER

I am so blessed to have the students back in school! The start of the year has been great!

8th grade has been enjoying learning about the Canadian provinces. Have your child show you the fun map games we play to help learn different locations!

7th grade is currently studying the Constitution and the creation of our U.S. government. Students will be able to state the preamble of the Constitution and the first ten amendments.

6th grade just finished up our second unit on the early Dakota and Ojibwe tribes. Our next unit will focus on the fur trade in Minnesota.

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SCIENCE MS. SCHAFER

I am so happy to report that science received a brand new curriculum this year that is fully interactive and aligned to the new 2019 MN Science Standards! The concepts are the same that we know and love about middle school science, but the delivery of the content is different and up-to-date with the best teaching practices.

All grades started the year learning lab safety rules, lab equipment, and the scientific method.

6th grade is currently learning about plate tectonics, rocks, minerals, and how our landforms are shaped the way they are today.

7th grade is learning about cells and multicellular organisms and how they function.

8th grade is learning about energy and how energy is in everything and can transfer and transform between objects.

With our new COVID policies, my goal is to still provide a fun, engaging, and hands-on science experience for the students!

LITERATURE MR. SCHULTZ

We have been off to a great start to this almost-normal year. It is so good to have students in the desks once again.

The sixth grade is finishing reading Where the Red Fern Grows, a touching coming-of-age novel about a boy and his dogs.

The seventh graders are wrapping up Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. We will then read some stories and poems, followed by S. E. Hinton's The Outsiders, a perennial favorite among middle school students.

In eighth grade we have just finished following brave Ulysses (Odysseus) in his 10-year journey home from the Trojan War. We will now read stories and poems, and then will travel to Depression-era California in John Steinbeck's classic Of Mice and Men.